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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 1998, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1998

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. James Lupton, retired, St. Albans Episcopal Church, Stuttgart, AR.

We are pleased to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rev. James Lupton, retired, St. Albans Episcopal Church, Stuttgart, AR, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth, in whom we live and move and have our being, we ask Your blessing on this great country. From many races, creeds, and nations You called us into united purpose as a Nation of peoples with diverse talents, unique strengths, and boundless energy. You instilled in us a lust for liberty, justice, and peace. We are set in the midst of natural beauty and wealth beyond compare. Mighty oceans, majestic mountains, lakes and rivers, lush forests, sweeping prairies, fertile land, and the abundance of Your bounty sustain our lives. For Your gifts we give You hearty thanks and praise.

We ask Your special blessing today on these men and women elected to serve as our Senators. Look graciously upon them. Grant them knowledge, strength, courage, and wisdom as they reflect on and debate the vast and complex issues of our age. Bring forth from their talents and skills wise laws that we may be governed in peace, prosperity, and happiness. Keep Your bea-

con of divine love and eternal truth ever before them.

All these things we ask in Your holy Name, You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Glad to have you with us. A beautiful prayer.

REV. JAMES LUPTON, GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, this morning's prayer was offered by the Reverend James Lupton. Reverend Lupton retired in May 1997 after eight years at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Stuttgart, AR.

During this ministry in Stuttgart, Reverend Lupton also served the people of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Tollville, AR. Prior to that, he served for four years in a Texas ministry.

Reverend Lupton received his call to the ministry later in life after a twenty-five year career as an architect. James comes from a long line of Arkansans. His mother's family was one of the first pioneer families to settle in Arkansas, coming to the state with Arkansas' first Governor, James Sevier Conway.

I am pleased that this individual with deep roots in my state was given the opportunity to offer today's prayer. We thank him for his inspiration.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10 o'clock. Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the substitute amendment to the product liability bill. Following that vote, a second vote will occur on adoption of the IRS conference report.

Following those two back-to-back votes, it will be the leader's intention to begin the Agriculture Export Relief Act or sanctions legislation. Hopefully, that bill will be considered under a brief time agreement of 2 hours.

Following that legislation, it is expected that the Senate will begin consideration of the higher education bill under the consent agreement of June 25, 1998. Therefore, several votes will occur during today's session of the Senate, with the first two votes occurring back to back at 10 a.m.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators have until 10 a.m. in order to file second-degree amendments to the product liability substitute.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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